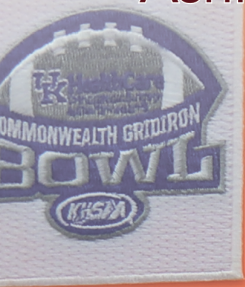


Tomcat Today

Ashland Independent School District Newsletter



March 2021 - Volume 6



Greetings,

Our district has had two outstanding academic accomplishments in recent weeks. We can all be proud of our Regional Championship Academic Teams. Our middle school earned the title for the first time in over 20 years. Poage Elementary earned their 2nd championship title in 4 years. With Hager Elementary winning the Regional title in 2019, three of the last four Regional Championships have been won by an Ashland elementary school. This is the first time we've had this honor since the inception of the Kentucky Association of Academic Competition in 1986. I'd like to congratulate all the students who represented our 7 schools so well this season...we had many outstanding individual performances.

Sincerely,

D. Sean Howard
Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Education

2021

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					H	2		1	W	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	NTI	NTI	NTI	NTI	NTI	9	7	8	9	10	W	W	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	PD	NTI	NTI	NTI	NTI	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	NTI	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	NTI	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				

April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1			P	C	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

OPENING DAY

08/25/20

CLOSING DAY

06/02/21

9 WEEKS

8/26/20-10/27/20	43 days
10/28/20-01/15/21	42 days
01/19/21-03/26/21	45 days
04/05/21-05/28/21	40 days

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

08/26/20	Beginning Day for Students-E1
10/02/20	PD/EKEA Day - No School
11/03/20	Election Day
11/23/20-11/27/20	Thanksgiving Break
12/21/20-1/1/21	Christmas/New Year's Break
01/04/21	Return to School After Holidays
3/29/21-4/2/21	Spring Break
05/28/21	Last Day for Student Attendance
05/31/21	Memorial Day

FOUR HOLIDAYS

09/07/20	Labor Day
11/26/20	Thanksgiving Day
12/25/20	Christmas Day
01/01/21	New Year's Day

ISSUE REPORT CARDS

11/04/20
01/22/21
04/09/21
05/28/21

GRADUATION

Last Day of School

FOUR STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

August 21- Flexible
August 24- Inflexible
October 2- Flexible EKEA
February 15- Flexible

5	Planning Days
170	Instructional Days
4	Staff Development Days
4	Holidays
1	Opening Day
1	Closing Day
185	Total Days

NO SCHOOL

9/7/20; 10/2/20; 11/3/20; 11/23/20-11/27/20
12/21/20-1/1/21; 1/18/21; 2/15/21;
3/29/21-4/2/21; 5/31/21

(weather day)
(Non-Traditional Instruction)
(days out of school)
(planning day for staff)

ACT Test and State Assessment: TBD

PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL



It seems like this year we have been hit with storm after storm (pun intended). But, as usual, we are resilient and have made it to the other side! Currently we have about 1/3 of our student body back on campus and we are adding to that number every day. As students return, we tweak our procedures and workings around campus to help accommodate their needs. Blazer teachers and staff love seeing our students back on campus, ready to get into the

classroom and work!

As the weather changes, campus seems to come to life again. The birds start chirping, the flowers start blooming, and the smell of cut grass fills the air as you walk from class to class. Though the ongoing construction can be a distraction, the heightened energy of spring coming to bloom is contagious and welcomed by everyone.

If you are a virtual student, we encourage you to stay engaged with your teachers and the culture of the campus. As capacity restrictions on athletic events are lifted, we invite everyone back! Come spend time with friends and take in a ball game. Check out other extracurricular activities as they begin to open up as well. Make the most of these opportunities as it won't be long until spring break is in our rearview and we will be discussing graduation plans.

Oh, the excitement of spring and the promise that it holds!

Go Tomcats!
James Campbell
Principal

Americorp Volunteers Help Make Everything Work

March 7-13 was nationally recognized as AmeriCorps Week! There are 270,000+ AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers united in service to help solve our nation's greatest challenges. One of those members can be found right here at Blazer! Help us celebrate our FRYSC AmeriCorps student, Adrianna Riggs! If you see her, make sure to thank her for the service she provides to the YSC, Blazer and to our community. Adrianna is always willing to step up and do whatever it takes to help out. She volunteers in the clothing closet, prepares our weekend backpacks, assists with laundry services and is currently serving at The Mission. Adrianna will be preparing a service learning project as part of her FRYSC AmeriCorps partnership as well. Adrianna embodies all that it takes to be an AmeriCorps member. Let her know that her courage, commitment, and selflessness do not go unnoticed. Thank you Adrianna!

Junior ACT - COVID Style

As has been the case for the entire year, this year's ACT was a little different. The state required test is administered to juniors each year here at Blazer. Although this exam is typically administered in the gym during one session, with the majority of juniors present, this year required a different setup. Social distancing requirements, virtual students and testing protocols made it necessary for testing to be conducted over several days. This also affected the rest of the student body as they had to utilize Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) for two of those days.

While the majority of students took the ACT with paper and pencil, many students utilized the online option of the test this year. Students were assigned to classrooms where they were placed at a computer. All the test and answer booklets were digitized for computer use. In all, over 15 different sites on campus were used to accommodate the new mandates and protocols for the safe testing of our junior students.

In speaking with several students about the changes, many expressed that while the test was different, they didn't have any trouble navigating or completing the exam. Many were excited to take the test in this environment for free, in an attempt to increase their previous scores. In all, over 95% of the junior class was able to make it in on one of the two days to take the exam. This was a monumental feat, to say the least, considering the numerous obstacles that stood in the way of students and teachers alike.

Technology Coaches Save The Day

Some of the unsung heroes here on campus this year have been our digital learning coaches. While this is not an official title, these coaches have worked diligently throughout the year to make sure that our teachers have felt comfortable and up to date in the latest resources and strategies involved in teaching "virtually". Before the school year started, several of our digital learning coaches hosted a week long professional development in which they assisted teachers with the complicated task of structuring their virtual classrooms in a way that allowed them to simultaneously provide instruction to in-person students. Beyond that, the coaches have been ready and available for the unending technological needs of our teachers and students. Their patience and willingness to assist others has been invaluable during this significant shift in the education system.

ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



Is it really time to start talking about next year? In all of the challenges that this year has presented, it has also made for a very fast school year. As our 5th grade families read through this edition of Tomcat Today, I can almost feel the anxiety many of our parents are feeling as they prepare to send their child to MIDDLE SCHOOL! Take a deep breath, check out this information, and feel free to reach out to us with questions along the way. In February, our administrative team met with all of our 5th graders to introduce ourselves and provide information on scheduling for next year. We met with the parents in early March and will follow that up with the 5th grade tours scheduled for April.

GO CATS!
David Greene, Principal

Elective Spotlight

Here at AMS, we are proud to offer so many elective opportunities for our students. With over 130 combined years of experience, our elective teachers are second to none in the commitment they have to our students' success. In this edition of Tomcat Today, we spotlight these elective teachers who add so much value to your child's middle school experience.



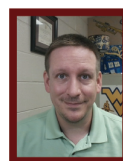
Amy Murnahan, PE

My husband Chuck and I have 5 kids; RJ (11th, Blazer), Abby (8th, Blazer), Ben (7th, AMS), Jaxon (6th, Ironton), and Max (3rd, Ironton). I love getting to know the kids and seeing them try their best in my class. I like seeing kids exercise and having fun too!



Rebekah Williams, STEM and Business

I am married to my husband Ray. We have three kids (Parker, Carter, and Max) and a golden retriever.



Roger Doss, Band

I have been married to my wife, Becca, for 10 years. I love helping students enjoy making music as much as I do, and helping to make them into good people through it.



Cory Brown, Art

My wife, Brittany, serves as the Youth Service Center Coordinator at Ashland Blazer. My son Jack Henry is a 1st Grader at Charles Russell Elementary. I love being part of a team, building relationships, and playing a role in the development of our students.



Cathy Hicks, Spanish

We are Tomcats! My husband also teaches here at AMS. All three of our children are Ashland students. They are in 9th, 7th, and 4th grades. My students are the best part of being a teacher. They make me laugh, they challenge me to think about things differently, they encourage me to step outside of my box and they give me hope in our future.



Molly Page, Strings

I'm married to Craig Buletich who is a touring musician and we just had our first child Clyde on February 9th, 2021. We enjoy playing music, hiking with our dog Rocket and traveling. I love watching my students grow as people and musicians from 6-12th grade.



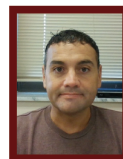
David Sparks, STEM

I have a very blessed family of my mom and two nieces. I have a wonderful girlfriend and her awesome son. I also have a dog named Lucy. The thing I love most about teaching is being able to share the things I am passionate about with my students and having a fun time doing it.



Mark Harmon, STEM

I have been married to my wife Anna for 7 years and we have four children; Prestyn (6), Peyton (4), Paisley (4), and Paxtyn (1). Prestyn attends Charles Russell Elementary and both Peyton and Paisley attend the AEECC. As a teacher, I love that I am able to help students discover authentic, real-world applications to the content they are learning and that I am able to help students uncover and pursue passions that could lead to their future career.



D'Artagnan Coots, Health/PE

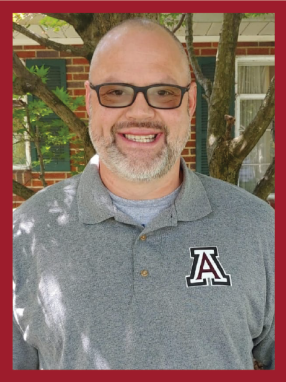
My wife Suzanne and I have two daughters, Mischa and Sophia. I am grateful for the opportunity to help others learn and grow.



Amber Ferguson, Chorus

I am blessed with a wonderful husband and two wonderful sons. I love helping students discover the joys of music and expressing creativity through the arts that will last a lifetime.

CHARLES RUSSELL ELEMENTARY



It's been quite a year to be a new principal here at Charles Russell Elementary School, but I've been fortunate to have the support of my staff, students, families, and CRS friends. As a community, we were able to endure a string of storms that crippled many homes. We are thankful that students are back in school.

It was great hearing students in the cafeteria and teachers in the classrooms delivering instruction again.

As we move forward, it is hard to believe that we are at the midpoint of the third grading term, and are beginning to collaborate and discuss our transition of 5th graders to Ashland Middle School. As Mr. Greene stated, there is certainly going to be anxiety for both students and parents during this transition. Be assured that they are supported by great teachers and staff here and at the middle school to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Again, thank you all in the CRS community for your support and patience in all that we've had to endure this school year. We will continue to serve our students and families with our best efforts.

Bob Pulliam
Principal

Staff Spotlight



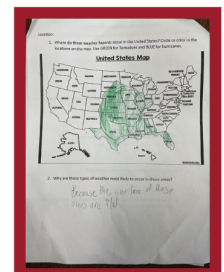
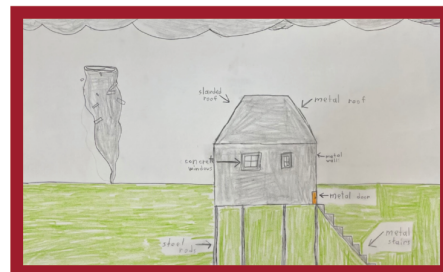
Noele Cornwell is a veteran member of our staff at Charles Russell. She has her B.A. in Elementary Education, M.A. as a Literacy Specialist, and is a certified Reading Recovery Teacher. Noele plays an important role in the success of our RTI program here at Charles Russell. She teaches Reading

Recovery and Primary Reading Intervention. Noele always has a positive attitude and is willing to help however needed.

Engineering for Weather

Mrs. Blackburn's 3rd grade class took on a really fun inquiry based science project exploring weather as well as engineering. Her students studied different types of hazardous weather or storms all around the world. They also looked at where these storms and weather occurred and why these storms and weather developed in certain areas more than others.

They researched the hazards involved in living in these weather conditions and translated this information to engineering houses. From this research, they designed a home that could withstand these storms without significant damage. Along with the design, the students had to identify materials used and explain the reasons they chose those building materials. Finally, the students chose a state where they would prefer to build their home and explained why they chose that location.



Mission Horizon

The Charles Russell Techno Wizards, under the guidance of Mrs. Geyer, are working hard at perfecting their missions for the Mission Horizon RCX Challenge. The 5-man team practiced with their robot last spring until school was let out in March. They have picked up where they left off and are now looking forward to submitting their challenge video. The team consists of Eli Foster, Logan Kincer, Mason Hamilton, Ryan Brogdon, and Ben Lynch. Great job on your mission so far, and we wish you all the best of luck in competition!



CRABBE ELEMENTARY



Hello Tiger Families! Well, this year has truly been interesting and continues to be so. Not only have we been dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic, but we have suffered through a severe ice storm causing widespread power outages which forced us to use virtual learning days. It is great seeing our scholars back in the

building! Teachers are super busy ensuring your child is making continued progress in learning. I want to thank all of you for your continued patience and flexibility- we are all in this together. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

#ITSATIGERTHING!

Staff Spotlight Mrs. Nancy Hemphill



During the month of February we celebrated our School Counselors. School Counselors wear many hats in the realm of mental health as they guide scholars to make right decisions and work on conflict resolution. Crabbe has been blessed with Mrs.

Nancy Hemphill for the past 24 years. Her dedication to guiding our scholars is one of passion and commitment. She has developed great relationships with families, and is one of the sweetest employees you could ever meet and have the privilege of working with. You often see her dressed up either as "The Cat in the Hat" or "Pinkalicious." Mrs. Hemphill, you are a jewel and you are truly appreciated!



Starter Cats at Crabbe

Here at Crabbe Elementary we are fortunate to have a partnership with the Ashland Exceptional Early Childhood Center where we house two 4 year old classrooms. Pictured here is Mrs. Kim Snyder's classroom. The Starter Cats are working on instruction with a St. Patrick's Day theme. The picture below shows them working on patterns and number recognition. Mrs. Snyder and her crew, Mrs. Nichols and Ms. Spears, work extremely hard with our future "Tigers to Tomcats!"



Pizzeria Fractions

Pictured here is Ms. Bowling delivering instruction on fractions to her 4th grade class. Scholars were able to dress up as chefs for their room transformation into a pizzeria. They worked out making their own pizzas based on materials given by Ms. Bowling. The scholars had no clue they were going to take part in this type of learning environment and were so excited! All scholars met their learning target on this activity. This is one of the many exploratory activities you will find at Crabbe Elementary School - It's A Tiger Thing!"



HAGER ELEMENTARY



It is an honor to have been selected as your new principal. Hager has been my second home for twenty years. In that time, I have certainly embraced every opportunity that I have been given. This new role, by far, will be the most challenging and rewarding. I look forward to serving our staff, students, families

and Hager community.

We are so happy to see our students back in their classrooms. A school is not a school without our students and staff. If you are continuing as a virtual learner, please know that you are missed and we respect the choice that you have made for your family. We certainly have come a long way since March, and your dedication and commitment to your child's education is so appreciated. Our teachers continue to find new ways to teach your children through a variety of virtual learning platforms. These platforms correlate with academic enriched activities that will best meet the needs of your child.

Our students, whether in person or virtual, will always be our number one priority!

Susan Vance,
Principal

Staff Spotlight



Ms. Taylor Powell is a 5th grade ELA and Science teacher at Hager Elementary. She recently received her Master's in Teaching from the University of the Cumberland in December. Before her first official year in teaching, Ms. Powell worked at Hager as an instructional assistant in 3rd grade and

Kindergarten. Becoming an assistant is what led Ms. Powell to fall in love with teaching. When she is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her loved ones, drinking endless amounts of coffee, and going to concerts (pre-Covid).

Reading in Transition

Miss Moore and Mrs. Zimmerman, 1st grade teachers, found a unique way to continue leveled reading groups when the school transitioned to virtual learning. Using data from the Fountas & Pinnell benchmark assessment or Star assessment, they created different reading groups in collaboration with the resource teacher, Mrs. Sayles. Each group had their own 30-minute time slot on Google Meet with Miss Moore, Mrs. Zimmerman, or Mrs. Sayles in the afternoon for guided reading practice. These groups were able to seamlessly transition back to in-person learning in January.



1st grade students (Harper Davis, Stella Howell, Jaxson Conway, and Greylen Blair) participate in a virtual guided reading group.

Wonder Teaches Kindness and Friendship

Mrs. Stuart's 3rd grade class completed their Wonder novel study recently. Since the majority of the novel study occurred during virtual learning, some of the activities were completed with Google Forms. Also, the students were able to have a classroom discussion about the book through Google Classroom's question feature. Mrs. Stuart would ask comprehension or opinion questions, and the students were able to see (and reply to) each other's answers. Mrs. Stuart was very excited to be able to finish their novel study in



3rd grade students display their Wonder books donated by Hager families and friends.

person! Wonder is an awesome novel that teaches many different themes including kindness and friendship. These are important themes for students to learn while growing as human beings. After analyzing the characters in the book, Mrs. Stuart's students will be writing their own stories next!

Upcoming Events

Accelerated Reader Spring Challenge
STLP State Meet
Wildcat Jungle Monthly Family Engagement Activities
Wildcat Jungle Monthly Parent Skill-Building Activities

OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY



I am so very thankful we are back in school. It warms my heart to see little faces in the halls of Oakview. For those of you who remained virtual, we miss you and can't wait until you join us in person. I am extremely proud of our district for truly hearing out and being passionate about meeting our families' individual needs. The hybrid model our district

created allowed us to resume in person learning as quickly as possible, while not forgetting the needs of those who desired a virtual option.

It is now time to start looking ahead to brighter days. My sincere hope is that when we return in August for a new school year, things will look familiar to our students. I want House Parties, field trips, assemblies, and all other learning activities COVID-19 took from us. I refuse to accept this as the "new normal." I am holding out hope for "back to normal," instead. Parents, be very proud of your students and the resiliency they have shown during this pandemic. They impress me daily with their fiery spirits. Stay safe and healthy, and remember, "Once a Comet, Always a Comet!"

Rebecca Howell,
Principal

Sharing MLK Jr.'s Dream

Ms. Mann's 2nd grade homeroom students watched the video read aloud of Brad Meltzer's book, "I am Martin Luther King, Jr." in honor of MLK Day. The classroom discussion covered the terms peaceful protests, fairness, and equal/equality treatment for all people. They discussed King's "I Have a Dream" speech and the students completed their own I Have a Dream worksheet. The students shared with one another their dream for the world, their family, and their selves.

The students also created a "Peace Flower" that represented the beauty in us all and the peaceful way we can all live together.

Ms. Mann's 2nd grade ELA students have started learning how to use the strategy R.A.C.E. when answering short response questions. R.A.C.E. stands for Restating, Answering, Citing Evidence, and Explaining/Extending. Our second-grade students focus on the R and A of RACE when responding to a short answer question. In addition to restating and answering, the students have been learning how to go back into their passage and find evidence that supports their answer. They do not include the evidence in their answer, but they are learning how to find evidence and highlight it in their text. The students will focus on how to explain/extend their answer when they become third graders.

Observing Avocadoes

To help 2nd grade students at Oakview meet the LS4-1 Science Standard of observing plants and animals, students have been observing and recording their observations as they grow their very own avocado tree!

With the help of 2nd grade science teacher Mr. French, students



removed the pit from an avocado, peeled it, and placed it in a cup of water. Soon thereafter, the students noticed the avocado pit had split at the bottom and saw that a root emerged!

Students continued to observe the pit as the root grew. Once the root reached the bottom of the cup, Mr. French transferred the pit to a dirt filled container and planted it. When students returned from winter break, they observed a sprout! The sprout has

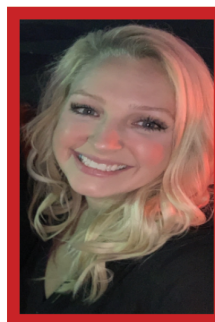
grown taller each day and students continue to record their observations as the plant grows into a tree!

As the plant keeps growing, students will continue to observe the growth of the tree. They can follow this growth through the next few years. This continued observation is important because,

as students learned in their research, they will have to wait four years until the tree will produce the avocado fruit!



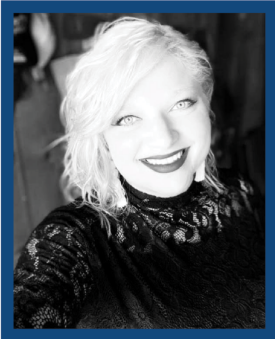
Staff Spotlight



Miss Royalty is getting ready to complete her ninth year in education. She currently teaches 3rd grade at Oakview. Miss Royalty earned her BA degree from the University of Kentucky and has recently completed her Master's degree from the University of the Cumberlands, becoming a certified Literacy Specialist for grades P-5. At this time, she is enrolled in an advanced degree program in Educational Leadership. When she isn't pouring her love and attention into the children of Oakview,

Miss Royalty enjoys spending time with family and loved ones, as well as planning her upcoming wedding in the Fall. Oakview is extremely blessed to have her.

POAGE ELEMENTARY



We are so thankful that we, as a district, can offer a hybrid model for our students to choose from. We absolutely love seeing our Pioneers in person. An elementary school should never be quiet- and it has been way too quiet since last March!!! To those

students who have remained virtual, we miss you and are looking forward to seeing you soon!

As crazy as it sounds, we are already beginning to look at next year! We are hoping things return to a more normal state and that we will be able to utilize our house system more consistently. We also hope to be able to interact with each other more! Bright things are ahead for our school and students!

Katie Holbrook
Principal

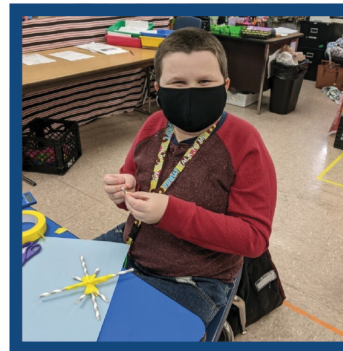
A Little Holiday Cheer

We had a visit from the big man himself!!! Santa Claus came to Poage right before Christmas and spent time with our Pioneers! He visited with students from behind the glass window for everyone's safety. He did, however, step out for a minute to visit with McIntyre Holbrook :) Our students and families enjoyed this traditional holiday experience as it was a welcomed moment of normalcy for our kiddos. I want to offer a shout out and a big THANK YOU to our staff at Poage for planning and making this amazing day happen!



Creating Symmetry

Mrs. Akers' class has been studying all things symmetry! They made symmetrical snowflakes as well as other geometrical shapes!



Staff Spotlight



During the month of February we celebrated our School Counselor, Mrs. Gara Bowley-Graves. She does so many things for our staff and students, we can never thank her enough! We appreciate all your hard work, Mrs. Bowley!



ASHLAND EARLY EXCEPTIONAL CHILDHOOD CENTER



We have been excited to see all of our little ones' faces each and everyday. Their energy is limitless and they have not stopped since we opened the door. Our hallways and classrooms are full of giggles and the pitter-patter of tiny feet. The children have been so busy doing experiments, playing with their classmates, and learning new things! I have shared several pictures this time because I want everyone to see their smiles, their enthusiasm, and the curiosity in their eyes!

Teresa Conway,
Director



Upcoming Events:

Preschool Enrollment: April 12-23

Art Show: April

Preschool Graduation: May

Director's Message

We are so happy to have our C.A.T.S. students back in our building! We enjoy our virtual students and hope to see them soon. Our 6th graders have been working on discovering Pascal's Triangle and the many secrets it holds. We've also found the "Golden Ratio" in nature, art, music and our faces. We have become familiar with the Periodic Table of Elements and learned about atomic structure and ionic bonding. Our 5th grade students have been busy learning about central tendencies, complementary, supplementary and vertical angles and order of operations.

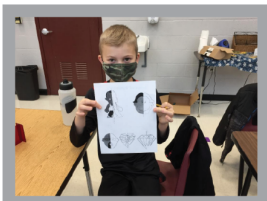
In science they have collected data, used Experimental Design and Dichotomous Keys and learned about plant and animal cells. 7th Grade C.A.T.S. students can now graph a line from an equation, use the Slope Intercept Formula and use the Pythagorean Theorem to find missing side lengths of right triangles. They have added to their knowledge of the Periodic Table and learned about atomic structure and counted atoms in compounds. Finally, our 4th graders have been diligently working with decimals. They can now read, write, round, compare, add and subtract decimals as well as multiply and divide by powers of 10. We just finished a unit on converting metrics by solving a mystery. They learned about Experimental Design and Dichotomous Keys. They can now measure mass and liquids with graduated cylinders

and triple beam balances. After learning about Food Chains and Food Webs, students got to experience one of our favorite activities... dissecting owl pellets. Our virtual students were able to dissect a virtual owl pellet.



New Experiences for Students... and Teachers

As two "well-seasoned" teachers, we have had some experiences this school year that we have never had before. In one virtual session with our 3rd Grade students, we had a student online at a different location than he would be normally. He had no microphone or camera, but he participated by typing in the Chat Box. This particular lesson involved the students writing a short story and reading it aloud to the class. Our "muted" student wanted to share his story so we typed the phone number to Blazer in the Chat box and told him to ask that his call be transferred to the CATS building. Our phone rang almost immediately. We held the phone up to our microphone and he read his story, which we all enjoyed. In that same class, we saw a student had another child sitting next to her in her mother's office. We asked if it was her brother and she informed us that the student was a friend from Raceland. He participated and volunteered answers throughout the lesson. There have definitely been some interesting "firsts" this year!



Lessons In Symmetry



Family Resource and Youth Service Center

This year, Family Resource Youth Services Centers across the state were recognized during the week of February 8-12. The state passed legislation to make the second Wednesday of every February the annual FRYSC Day in Kentucky. This year it was celebrated on February 10th. To celebrate, teachers, students and staff displayed pictures with the “We Love Our FRYSC” logo. Pictures were posted on social media. Also, local businesses and organizations posting the graphic in their windows, with the hashtag #FRYSCStrong. It was a great way to recognize the dedication that these centers provide for our students and families every day.



Friends of the Children Help Clothe Students

Ashland FRYSC work closely each year with Friends of the Children (FOC) to provide clothing, socks, underwear a coat and shoes for children in-need. FOC is a local non-profit charitable organization comprised of 40 members. It is the oldest continually running non-profit organization in the city of Ashland. Their mission objective is to provide new clothing for children whose families stand in greatest financial need. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, FOC provided clothing for 298 students ranging in age from the Early Childhood Center through Blazer High School. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, FRYSC and FOC members shopped for children at JCPenney. Families were able to come to their designated FRYSC to pick up their clothing.

Tomcats Perfect Season Finishes at Kroger Field, Post-Season Awards Announced

Ashland's undefeated state championship season further built on the Tomcat tradition. The Tomcats finished 11-0, becoming Ashland's first unbeaten team since 1958 and the first unbeaten and untied team since 1942. Ashland's 35-14 victory over Elizabethtown in the Class 3A championship game was the identical score of the Tomcats last state championship in 1990 against Lincoln County. Postseason awards have flooded in for the Tomcats, including three Coach of the Year honors for Tony Love and a Player of the Year award for senior Keontae Pittman. Kentucky High School Football's Twitter account selected Ashland as the 2020 Team of the Year. Ashland was ranked seventh overall in Kentucky and 63rd nationally among small schools by MaxPreps.

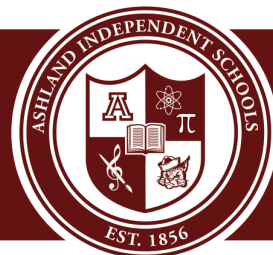
- Mark Maynard

The "Road To The Ring" was filled with relentless challenges that took much more than the immediate members of the team to achieve success; it became an amazing community effort by the Momcats, dads, field crew, administration and transportation. It took everyone, including hundreds of donors, to provide this football team with the tools to succeed. I would like to express my appreciation to all of those individuals and businesses for the outpouring of help in so many ways. I'm so proud to be a part of the Tomcat Nation.

- Head Coach Tony Love



Once a Tomcat...



Patsy Lindsey ('67) began as a Crabbe Tiger. She attended Coles Junior High School and then graduated from Blazer High School in 1967. Mrs. Lindsey received her BA & MA at Marshall University and her EdD from the University of Kentucky. Mrs. Lindsey has held many positions over the years. She has served the community as a teacher, Principal, Kentucky Department of Education, District Administrator, and now holds a seat as a School Board Member.

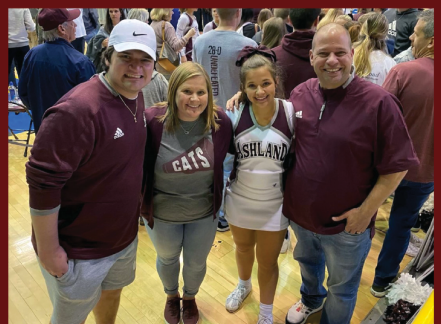
Mrs. Lindsey recalls, "My fondest and most fun memories while involved with the Ashland Schools were in 1967 as a student, 1991 as a teacher and 2021 as a Board member. Those are the years we won the State Football Championships. I attended all of those games and cheered our Tomcats on to glorious victories!"

Mrs. Lindsey credits the Ashland schools for preparing her well. She says, "The values I learned in the Ashland Schools are lifetime skills that I cherish. Living in a small town and attending neighborhood schools teaches you the value of relationships. Certainly, family relationships are important, but also establishing life-long friendships that stand the test of time. Kids I went to school with in 1st grade are still great friends today. In the Ashland Schools, the teachers are the best at getting to know their students on a very personal level and knowing and under-

standing their families and each child's family dynamics." These relationships are the cornerstone for a strong community.

Mrs. Lindsey would like to remind students, "Just because you are from a small town doesn't mean you have to settle for small goals. Set your sights high and establish a good and strong work ethic that helps you achieve those goals. Also, lean on others for help. Ashland teachers and educators can be a huge support in helping you find resources to reach those goals." She feels her proudest accomplishment has been that of "instilling a strong work ethic in my children and grandchildren. My two daughters, Stephanie and Katy, had many years in the Ashland Schools with perfect attendance. Three of my granddaughters have never missed a single day of school while attending the Ashland Schools. Carlyle and Langley both received the "Perfect Attendance Scholarship" at their graduations and Lillian is a Junior at Blazer and has also never missed a day of school. As the Director of Pupil Personnel for the Ashland Schools, attendance was my main focus. I certainly value the importance of a good strong work ethic."

Mrs. Lindsey is proud to be a Tomcat. She states, "I have always known being a Tomcat was a big deal, but I didn't realize how important it was until I worked for the Kentucky Department of Education. I traveled all over Kentucky working with other school districts. It was during those years that I learned how much respect the rest of the state has for the Ashland School District. I was always extremely proud to tell other educators "I'm an Ashland Tomcat".



David Greene ('92) has been a Tomcat all of his life. He began his schooling at Charles Russell and then attended Verity Middle, before graduating from Blazer in 1992. He received his undergraduate degree at Marshall University and then continued on to Morehead State where he received his Graduate degree in Administration. He has been the Principal of Ashland Middle School for 11 years.

When asked to recall his fondest childhood memory, Mr. Greene is unable to nail it down to just one specific experience, "My experiences in all three schools were so positive. I loved the day to day interactions in class, I loved my friends, and I loved participating in all of the extra-curricular events."

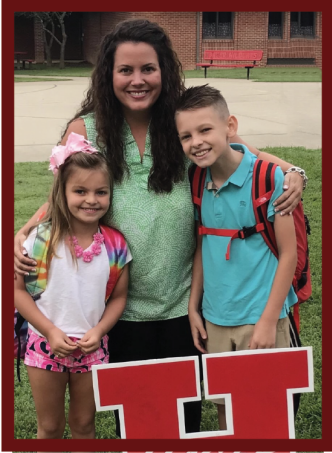
He recalls having strong teachers, "They were good. They set the bar high and engaged with their students." He credits them for his career choice, "I've made a career out of being in school because of the culture that was created in our school

district."

In order to be successful, he would advise students to seek out and listen to good advice. "Most adults in your life want you to be successful, so take it all in. Engage in school. Don't just show up, but participate; jump in with both feet and show some enthusiasm for what you do. Lastly, if you want to continue to be given opportunities for success, then commit fully to what is in front of you and do it exceptionally well."

Of his career in education, Mr. Greene says he is proud of being a small part in the success of those with whom he has had the opportunity of working, "I LOVE seeing others succeed and I LOVE being a small part of what they accomplish. Honestly, it never gets old to see things go well for others. I'm most proud of watching the growth and accomplishments of both students and staff that I've had the privilege of leading. Tomcat Nation is a real thing. I'm proud of the type of adults that our school district produces. I'm proud of how passionately our community loves our schools. That is not something I take for granted."

Always a Tomcat



Ashley Layman ('00) started out as a Hager Wildcat before moving on to Verity Middle School and graduating from Paul G. Blazer High School in 2000. She credits Mr. Barnett and Mrs. Stucker for peaking her interest in business and languages, "Blazing Star Bank and the foreign exchange program with our sister school in Colmenar Viejo, Spain made a big impact on my choice of studies. I majored in International Economics and Spanish because of my experiences at Blazer and the influence of these standout educators."

Mrs. Layman fondly remembers many of the teachers who guided and inspired her, "Hager Elementary was a magical place to grow up. I remember and love all of my teachers from that time; it's so much fun to run into them as an adult now and reminisce. Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Halleck, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Mahanna, Mrs. Pitsenberger, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Umberger, Mrs. Lindsey, Mrs. Edinger, Mrs. Berrong, Mrs. Thornburg, the cafeteria staff and Mr. George all made this a special place. I would say that most Hager Wildcats my age would agree that certain things stand out in the memories of our childhood: Mrs. Lindsey's planetarium, spaghetti lunch with the most amazing rolls, and the fantastic playground we were so lucky to have are just a few of them!"

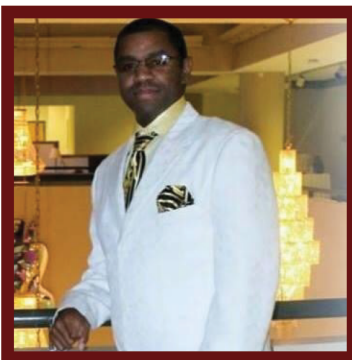
Mrs. Layman feels that the education she received in Ashland prepared her well. "The AISD provided me with exceptional educators at each level. I received outstanding support from administration and was afforded amazing opportunities and unique experiences. The things I value most today, from my time as a student in the

AISD are: attending an amazing elementary school that provided a great foundation and fostered a love of learning, the opportunity to be a foreign exchange student, my ability to participate in the Entrepreg Program, Mrs. Brownstead's leadership program that allowed me to teach at Hatcher, and my time spent serving as a student advisor on the advisory council to the Superintendent. These experiences prepared me for a seat at any table and provided me with a wide range of topics to speak on and a further understanding of the various versions of the world we live in."

In order to be successful, Mrs. Layman warns that "schooling at any level will only prepare you for so much. The work you have to do to be successful comes from within. Listen to those with experience, think for yourself and always do your research. I think the most important keys to success in life right now are being dedicated, being honest and developing a good work ethic. Those things will take you so far."

Mrs. Layman, aside from her most important job of being a mother, serves the community as a Quality Control & Procurement Specialist, Community Volunteer and Entrepreneur. She believes her proudest professional accomplishments are still on the horizon. "I have designed unique things that are still in use today. I love the satisfaction of a successful audit and contract negotiation. I value being in a room full of people that I can learn from. However, there is still so much more to achieve and that is what is so exciting about life! What I really find value in currently is being committed to lifelong learning and community."

She is proud to be a Tomcat Alumnus, "Once a Tomcat, Always a Tomcat! I love that our Alumni community shows up for our Tomcats frequently and with pride. We have Tomcats all over the world who carry their years in the AISD as a badge of honor. They are willing to mentor, contribute and trumpet the traditions that are such an integral part of the Tomcat Nation. That is something worth investing in and something to be proud of!



Principal Tolbert ('04) began his education at Hatcher Elementary before moving on to Verity Middle School and graduating from Paul G. Blazer High School in 2004. He continued his post graduate work at Eastern Kentucky University, receiving his Bachelor of Music & Master of Music in Music Education. He followed that up with his Rank 1, Specialist in Education in School Administration and Supervision, which eventually led him back home to become the Principal of Crabbe Elementary School.

He fondly recalls spending his entire elementary career at Hatcher Elementary School, a place "where a wonderful staff showed they truly cared about the future of us Hatcher Tigers!" He says his time in the AISD taught him many things, one of the most important being to make no excuses. "Growing up in poverty can allow you to feel depressed, unworthy, and can put you in the mindset of 'this is how life is always going to be.' I was fortunate to be guided by the best teachers and administrators. Hatcher gave me the foundation, Verity gave me the vision, and Blazer molded and made the determination of my vision a reality. I appreciate people like Mr. and Mrs. Boyer who pushed me to want better, Mr. Carol for making me fill out college applications and not settling for less, and so many more I could name, but I would need to write a book just to name all those who impacted my life!"

Principal Tolbert advises, "If you want to be successful, then like the slogan for Nike says, 'Just Do It.' You will have obstacles in your path; learn how to overcome them and know it is ok to ask for help! One day you will be the individual able to bless someone with the help they need to be successful. I am in my 11th year of education, 3rd year as a Principal, 4th school and 2nd district. I feel that my greatest accomplishment is still being able to make positive and personal relationships with my families. The saying, 'kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care,' is a true fact. I would say this applies to the parents/guardians, too. I still have families and past staff members who reach out to thank me for what I do." Mr. Tolbert is proud to be a Tomcat Alumnus, "I come from a school system who cares for their kids, who wants to see them succeed. I credit my current success and future success to the AISD school system."

AMS Wins Districts and Regionals, Looks Toward State Competition

Congratulations to the Ashland Middle School Academic Team, who are this year's Governor's Cup District and Regional Middle School Champions. The last time Ashland Middle held the title was in 1993. It has been an incredible journey for the intelligent, hardworking students on the team and the dedicated coaching staff. "Winning Regionals really meant a lot to all of us, especially the eighth graders. We have been working hard all year," says Anna Bocook, Team Captain.

The journey began with an outstanding showing in the 67th District competition, one of the most competitive districts in the state. The competition was very different this year with students competing online for all competitions. When asked about this year's team, Mrs. Lee says, "This team is like the Little Engine that Could. We have chugged along for the last few seasons telling them they could, they could, they could and finally they DID! Every member is valuable and the time they spend practicing and connecting with their coaches has really paid off!" Many team members qualified for regions in Written Assessment and Composition. In addition, the Future Problem Solving Team and the Quick Recall Team placed 2nd after some very close rounds.

The team's success continued at the Regional Competition. Once again, several students placed in Written Assessment and Composition. The Future Problem Solving Team placed first in an incredibly challenging category. For the members of the Quick Recall Team, it was a long day of competition. The team played seven matches of Quick Recall, only moving out of the winners bracket at the end and losing by 1 point. In the end, the Tomcats were crowned Regional Champions with a score of 42 points, followed by Russell Middle School with 30 points, and Boyd County with 27.

Coaching Staff:

Eliza Lee - Head Coach
Angie Heyerly - Language Arts, Asst. Coach
Rebekah Hall - Science
Carrie Harmon - Social Studies
Kyrie Litteral - Arts and Humanities
Amber Pennington - Math
Erin Reynolds - Composition
Jeff Kinard - Future Problem Solving

Quick Recall Team:

Abe Arnold
Aiden Conley
Anna Bocook
Rilee Bohannon
Reagan Hayes
Abigail Lawson
Abigail Madden
Eric Ware
Coltyn West
Noah Wurts
Caroline Yates

Future Problem Solving:

Sammantha Elswick
Brooklyn Smyser
Kaia Mantle
Marley Walter
Joelle Workman



DISTRICT COMPETITION:

Overall: 1st Place

Quick Recall: 2nd Place
Future Problem Solving: 2nd Place
Composition: Audrey Pulliam (1st), Reagan Hayes (2nd)
Arts and Humanities: Caroline Yates (1st), Anna Bocook (3rd), Ben Ream (5th)
Language Arts: Anna Bocook (1st), Caroline Yates (2nd)
Science: Eric Ware (4th)
Math: Eric Ware (3rd)
Social Studies: Rilee Bohannon (5th)

REGIONAL COMPETITION:

Overall: 1st Place

Quick Recall: 2nd Place
Future Problem Solving: 1st Place
Composition: Reagan Hayes (3rd), Audrey Pulliam (5th)
Arts and Humanities: Caroline Yates (1st), Anna Bocook (3rd), Ben Ream (4th)
Language Arts: Anna Bocook (1st), Caroline Yates (2nd)
Science: Eric Ware (4th)
Math: Eric Ware (2nd)

Poage on Top, Ashland Elementary Schools Dominate Regional Competition

Of the 124 total points awarded on Saturday, 89.5 of those were awarded to Ashland Elementary Students. This accounted for 72% of the total points! What an awesome day for Ashland and a huge congratulations and thank you to our students, our amazing and incredibly dedicated coaches, staff members who helped throughout, and to the families of our students! To say our district feels proud today is quite the understatement! #AshlandProud

MATH

1ST - JOSH SUTTON (POAGE)
2ND - BLAYNE EVANS (OAKVIEW)
4TH - LAUREN STEELE (OAKVIEW)
5TH (TIE) - HARPER ROBINSON (HAGER)

SCIENCE

1ST - JETT LAYNE (OAKVIEW)
2ND - HOLDEN PACK (POAGE)
3RD - OLIVIA DAVIS (HAGER)
5TH (TIE) - HAGEN SAMUEL (POAGE)

LAUNGUAGE ARTS

1ST - JOSH SUTTON (POAGE)
3RD - TATE KNEISLEY (HAGER)
4TH - WILLOW RICE (CHARLES RUSSELL)
5TH - CARTER HAYES (HAGER)

ARTS & HUMANITIES

1ST - CHLOE ROBERSON (OAKVIEW)
2ND - TATE KNEISLEY (HAGER)
4TH (TIE) - MOLLY HICKS (OAKVIEW)
4TH (TIE) - KYLIE TRENT (OAKVIEW)

SOCIAL STUDIES

2ND - ELI FOSTER (CHARLES RUSSELL)
3RD (TIE) - CARSON SIZEMORE (CHARLES RUSSELL)
3RD (TIE) - CARTER ANDERSON (POAGE)
5TH - CARTER HAYES (HAGER)

COMPOSITION

2ND - AVERY CAUDILL (POAGE)
3RD - GRACIE TAYLOR (HAER)
4TH - HARPER ROBINSON (HAGER)

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

1ST - POAGE
2ND - CRABBE

QUICK RECALL

1ST - POAGE
3RD - HAGER

FINAL STANDINGS

1ST - POAGE (37)
3RD - HAGER (20)
4TH - OAKVIEW (19)
5TH - CHARLES RUSSELL (8.5)
7TH - CRABBE (5)

